

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05068 181127Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 COME-00 USSS-00 HA-05
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W
-----041169 181141Z /16

O R 181045Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1406
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMEMBASSY BONN
DIA
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL TRIESTE POUCH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/ECJ2-R
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
HQ AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

SHAPEUSNR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT, PFOR
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SUBJ: MORO KIDNAPPING

REF: ROME 5051

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MORO
KIDNAPPING SINCE REFTEL WAS SENT. FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER THE
DRAMATIC EVENT, THERE HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN NO HARD LEADS,

AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO COMMUNICATION FROM THE PERPETRATORS. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE ADOPTED A TIGHT-LIPPED PUBLIC POSTURE. ON THE THEORY THAT THE KIDNAPPERS COULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN FAR FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES ARE APPARENTLY BEING CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTHERN SECTION OF ROME. IN ONE SUCH SEARCH, A 32-YEAR OLD BANK EMPLOYEE WAS APPREHENDED FOR POSSIBLE COMPLICITY IN THE AFFAIR, BUT POLICE HAVE DISCOUNTED EARLIER SENSATIONAL NEWS REPORTS THAT THE SUSPECT IS IMPORTANT TO THE CASE.

2. PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI MET WITH THE PARTY SECRETARIES OF THE FIVE PARTIES THAT SUPPORT HIS GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 17 IN AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ADOPT AT THIS TIME EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES SUCH AS A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY OR IMPOSITION OF A CURFEW. INSTEAD, A COMMITTEE OF PARTY EXPERTS WILL MEET MARCH 18 TO PREPARE DECREE LAWS DESIGNED TO INCREASE EMERGENCY POLICE POWERS. THE MEASURES, FIRST DISCUSSED IN CONNECTION WITH LAST JULY'S PROGRAM ACCORD, ARE UNDERSTOOD TO COVER PREVENTATIVE DETENTION OF THOSE SUSPECTED OF PREPARING OR ENGAGED IN VIOLENT CRIME, TELEPHONE INTERCEPTS, BROADER INTERROGATION AUTHORITY, SECRET EXAMINATION AND PROCEEDINGS, AND SEARCH AND SEIZURE. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL REPORTEDLY MEET ON MARCH 19 OR 20 TO APPROVE THE EMERGENCY DECREE LAWS.

3. THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO BE HIGHLY EMOTIONALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHARGED BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO OUTBREAKS OF DISORDERS. LARGE NUMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL IN ROME MARCH 18 OF THE FIVE BODYGUARDS SLAIN IN THE KIDNAPPING. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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